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PRESS RELEASE

State Ethics Commission settles with District Attorney Bernadine Martin for Procurement Code Violations

Albuquerque, NM, February 3, 2023– Today, the State Ethics Commission announces it has settled a matter concerning violations of the Procurement Code by the Office of the Eleventh Judicial District – Division II. The settlement is with the District Attorney for the office, Bernadine Martin, and the office’s Chief Procurement Officer, Christina Esquibel. The SEC alleged that the office violated the Procurement Code by entering into multiple contracts for legal services without using either a competitive proposal process or an applicable exception. The settlement stipulates that District Attorney Martin must comply with the Procurement Code, undergo a training by the State Purchasing Department, along with the members of her office authorized as procurement officers, and must put out a request for proposals for the proposed contract legal services.

For more information about the State Ethics Commission, visit www.sec.state.nm.us.